

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A medical device comprising:

a handle;
an end effector assembly; and
an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, and at least one groove accommodates a portion of the end effector assembly, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly, and

wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

2. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive at least one half of a diameter of the elongate member.

3. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a width of the at least one groove is substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

4. - 6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion.

8. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the distal portion.

9. - 12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove extends through the proximal portion, the central portion, and the distal portion.

14. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 13, wherein a portion of the at least one groove is wider than the rest of the at least one groove.

15. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member.

16. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove comprises at least two grooves.
17. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 16, wherein one of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate more than one portion of the elongate member and the other of the at least two grooves is configured to accommodate one portion of the elongate member.
18. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a channel.
19. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 18, wherein the channel is defined by the spool portion of the handle.
20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 19, wherein the channel is defined by the distal portion.
22. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 21, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion, and
wherein a circumferential position of the at least one groove on the proximal portion is aligned with a circumferential position of the channel on the distal portion.

23. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

24. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the handle further comprises a notch.

25. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the notch is defined by the spool portion of the handle.

26. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 25, wherein the notch is defined by the distal portion.

27. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 26, wherein the at least one groove is on the proximal portion, and

wherein the at least one groove and the notch are on corresponding portions of the proximal portion and the distal portion, respectively.

28. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive a loop of the elongate member.

29. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is configured to receive loops of the elongate member.

30. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove includes a radial groove and a circumferential groove.

31. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 30, wherein the radial groove and circumferential groove are connected.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole on the spool portion configured to accommodate the elongate portion therethrough.

34. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a throughhole extending through the proximal portion, central portion, and distal portion.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Original) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

37. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the at least one groove is defined by the central portion.

38. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the portion of the handle that defines the at least one groove is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the portion of the end effector assembly.

39. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 24, wherein the portion of the handle that comprises the notch is composed of a material configured to assist in retaining the end effector of the end effector assembly.

40. (Previously Presented) A medical device comprising:

a handle;
an end effector assembly; and
an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle includes an elongate portion and a spool portion disposed around the elongate portion, wherein the spool portion includes a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a plurality of grooves are defined by the proximal portion and another plurality of grooves are defined by the distal portion, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves, and a plurality of loops of the elongate member is disposed in a groove defined by the handle, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly, and

wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and at least one of the another plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

41. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the plurality of grooves.

42. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel.

43. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch.

44. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a plurality of portions of the elongate member are disposed in the groove.

45. (Canceled)

46. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the spool portion.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the groove is defined by the proximal portion.

49. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the groove is defined by the distal portion.

50. (Canceled)

51. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein one portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the plurality of grooves and another portion of the elongate, flexible member is disposed in one of the another plurality of grooves.

52. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in another groove defined by the proximal portion and the central portion.

53 - 55. (Canceled)

56. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein at least some of the plurality of loops are disposed in separate grooves.

57. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein at least some of the plurality loops are disposed in separate pairs of grooves.

58. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a channel defined by the handle.

59. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, further comprising a notch defined by the handle.

60. (Canceled)

61. (Original) The medical device of claim 40, wherein the end effector assembly is a pair of opposing biopsy forceps jaws.

62. - 83. (Canceled)

84. (Previously Presented) A medical device comprising:
a handle including an elongate portion and a spool portion including a proximal portion, a central portion, and a distal portion and disposed around the elongate portion;
an end effector assembly, wherein the spool portion is configured to actuate the end effector assembly; and
an elongate, flexible member connecting the handle to the end effector assembly,

wherein the handle defines a groove, wherein the groove accommodates a plurality of loops of the elongate member and a portion of the end effector assembly, wherein the spool defines at least one notch circumferentially adjacent to the groove on the proximal portion of the spool and at least another notch circumferentially adjacent to the groove on the distal portion of the groove, one or more of the at least one notch and the at least another notch being configured to accommodate a portion of the elongate member, and

wherein the at least one notch and the at least another notch are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

85. (Canceled)

86. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the groove is defined by the spool portion.

87. (Canceled)

88. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein the portion of the elongate member is disposed in one or more of the at least one notch and the at least another notch.

89. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein each of the at least one notch and the at least another notch has a width substantially the same as a diameter of the elongate member.

90. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 84, wherein each of the at least one notch and the at least another notch has a width narrower than a diameter of the elongate member.

91. (Previously Presented) A medical device comprising:
a handle;
an end effector assembly; and
an elongate, flexible member forming a plurality of loops and connecting the handle to the end effector assembly;
wherein the handle includes a spool portion, the spool portion including a proximal portion and a distal portion connected by a central portion, wherein a first plurality of grooves are arranged along an outer circumference of the proximal portion and a second plurality of grooves are arranged along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein the first plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the second plurality of grooves, wherein each of the grooves of the first plurality of grooves is separated from each other along the outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the grooves of the second plurality of grooves is separated from each other along the outer circumference of the distal portion, and one of the first and second

plurality of grooves houses the plurality of loops, the spool portion being configured to actuate the end effector assembly, and

wherein at least one of the first plurality of grooves and at least one of the second plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with each other and are discontinuous with the central portion.

92. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 91, wherein the one of the first and second plurality of grooves houses the end effector assembly.

93. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the another plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves houses multiple loops of the elongate member.

94. (Canceled)

95. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the plurality of grooves are circumferentially aligned with the another plurality of grooves.

96. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 1, wherein one groove of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves accommodates multiple loops of the elongate member.

97. - 99. (Canceled)

100. (Previously Presented) The medical device of claim 40, wherein a portion of the end effector assembly is disposed in the groove defined by the handle.

101. (New) The medical device of claim 40, wherein each of the plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the proximal portion, and each of the another plurality of grooves is separated from each other along an outer circumference of the distal portion, wherein at least one of the plurality of grooves and the another plurality of grooves houses the plurality of loops of the elongate member.